

V O C A T I O N A L TASKFORCE NEWS

The Vocational Taskforce discussed current issues facing centers such as TAR revisions, PDOF for job interviews and center tool box policies at its quarterly meeting May 10-11 in Baltimore, Md.

The Regional Office proposed a change in the CPP process to improve retention and OBS based on the belief that the sooner a student is enrolled in a career skill area, the longer they will stay on center. This recommendation took effect July 1, and centers are now asked to enroll students into vocational programs within the first 30 days.

More and more centers in the region are offering Automotive Training. The Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy has offered the automotive program for nine years and is available to help other centers get started. Please call Dan Hall at (270) 389-5311 for more information.

Bob Laudeman with the Bureau of Apprenticeships and Training discussed opportunities with the National Institute of Metalworking Skills, Magna and YouthBuild.

The next meeting will be Sept. 18 and 19 at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Ky. Qualified judges are encouraged to attend to review the Vocational Skills Training competition entries.

The Philadelphia Region Vocational Taskforce is a committee of center operators, NTCs and vocational managers. The taskforce was created to gather information on vocational issues, linkages, job placements and vocational assessments throughout CDSS. All Philadelphia Region operators and interagency partners are represented in the workgroup.



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SALUTE to Jim Kennedy

Project manager retiring after 30-plus years with Job Corps

Jim Kennedy, project manager of the Philadelphia Region of Job Corps, will be retiring this summer after a career with Job Corps that has spanned four decades.

“Jim’s desire for helping young people learn occupations and become employable has helped shape the Job Corps program into what it is today,” said Lynn Intrepidi, director of the Philadelphia Region. “He has been instrumental in Job Corps’ success over the past four decades, and he will be greatly missed.”



Kennedy, who previously was a transportation manager for ITT, joined Job Corps in the early 1970s. He developed career placement practices at the Kilmore Job Corps Center in New Jersey, which had 2,500 students. These practices led all other Job Corps centers in establishing corporate partnerships.

During his career, Kennedy developed a prototype P-PEP, opened the first nonresidential center in Philadelphia, and helped build the Charleston Job Corps Center from the ground up. While serving as project manager at the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy, he replaced 50 WWII buildings with modular units and also brought the Roadway program to the center. During the 1970s and '80s, he was director of training for EPA and worked at the corporate level with charter airlines.

Kennedy will continue as a member of the Vocational Taskforce as a representative of the Yellow Roadway Corporation.



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CONTENTS:

- Safety Courses Make Job Corps Students More Employable
- Job Corps' Partnership with YRC Worldwide Provides Valuable Truck-driving Experience
- Earle C. Clements Student Is First Job Corps Trainee Accepted to YRC Worldwide Finishing School
- Vocational Taskforce News
- Salute to Jim Kennedy

SAFETY COURSES

MAKE JOB CORPS STUDENTS MORE EMPLOYABLE

The Vocational Taskforce recommends that each center offer safety training and OSHA certification for students in all related career areas.

OSHA training is applicable for students in a variety of different career areas, from construction to health care. Many centers already implement unique safety programs for students.

"Safety courses are a great way to help students prepare for the workplace," said Apryl Simmons at Home Builders Institute. "Students are proud of being OSHA-certified, and they realize it's recognized in their industries. OSHA certification is also good for employers. They hire students with good safety practices, and the certification is already paid for."

Career Technical Manager Dana Kelly and his instructors at Woodstock Job Corps Center have trained students in safety procedures for some time, but this year marks the center's first "certification rodeo." Students from career areas ranging from construction to engineering participated in the inaugural rodeo.

Kelly explains there had not been enough certified instructors to implement an effective program until now. This year, Woodstock had six instructors who were able to teach the students about proper safety.

During the first four days of the weeklong program, groups of 10 to 12 students rotated through different safety courses with the instructors. The rotation included safety practices such as OSHA-10 certification, CPR/first aid, lift-truck operation and Hilti powder-actuated tool training.

The rodeo took place on the program's final day. Kelly and the other instructors set up 12 stations in Woodstock's gym and divided the students into groups of five. Each station required students to identify the proper safety procedures or procedure violations on display by using what they learned earlier in the week. Instructors served as judges at each station and awarded points to each team depending on its performance.

"The students were so excited and pumped up at the competition," Kelly said. "It was great to see them use their communication and troubleshooting skills to collaborate and succeed."

In the end, several students were recognized as certification rodeo champions, and everyone who participated learned the value of workplace safety.



Job Corps' Partnership with YRC Worldwide Provides Valuable Truck-driving Experience

Job Corps has partnered with Yellow Roadway Corporation Worldwide (YRC Worldwide) to help students launch their careers in the commercial trucking industry.



One of the largest transportation service providers in the world, YRC Worldwide has established finishing schools for commercial drivers who lack real-world highway driving experience. The schools offer students with less than one year of experience the chance to improve their driving skills and achieve certification.

The YRC finishing school teaches stringent instructional and observational guidelines that promote safety on the road. Located in four regional areas that have a high demand for drivers, YRC Worldwide absorbs the students' costs for the program, including school tuition, lodging and training wages.

"The partnership with YRC Worldwide and its finishing school was designed with new drivers in mind," said Jim Kennedy, project manager with the Philadelphia Region of Job Corps. "We wanted to provide the experience drivers need to function safely on the road. Offering this program allows new drivers the opportunity to do just that."

Based in Overland Park, Kan., YRC Worldwide's portfolio of brands represents a variety of services for the shipment of industrial, commercial and retail goods domestically and internationally. The company offers a wide range of asset and non-asset-based transportation services.

Earle C. Clements Student Is First Job Corps Trainee Accepted to YRC Worldwide's Finishing School

Patrick Lowry was chosen to be the first Job Corps trainee to enter Yellow Roadway Corporation Worldwide's finishing school in Wichita, Kan.

Lowry completed the truck driving training program at Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy in May, and he gained his commercial driver's license with HAZMAT certification. In order to become a better driver and gain more experience, he applied to YRC Worldwide's finishing school.

The fact that Lowry, who graduated at the top of his class, was accepted as the first trainee was no surprise to the students or staff on center.

"We could not be more proud of Patrick Lowry. He is a great representation of the students here at Earle C. Clements who want to

succeed in their chosen fields," Earle C. Clements Center Director Billy Cooper said. "Patrick has had a great track record here on center, and we're happy to see him continue toward success in his future career."

In finishing school, Lowry will refine his skills of long-combination vehicles, defensive driving, driving in adverse weather conditions and mountain driving.

On completion of the program, Lowry plans to relocate to Charlotte, N.C., and continue with YRC Worldwide as a long-haul driver. With the training received through Job Corps and the experience he will gain at YRC Worldwide's finishing school, he expects to earn 54 cents per mile, or about \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year.